

# PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## *Thus Saith the Lord* **COMFORTABLY NUMB**

By Jeff Sweeten

In a momentary gasp of reason, Pink Floyd's David Gilmour croons: "I have become comfortably numb." It would seem that in a moment of retrospective honesty, Roger Waters, the lyricist, had to admit that the entertainment "life-style" wasn't one of his best choices. I can't help but wonder at the irony of so many drunken, drug-dependent rockers through the years who have idolized this song, insisting that it is best imbibed while stoned out of your gourd.

The alternate-reality solutions some hope to find at the bottom of a bottle or with the prick of a needle defies logic. The Bible is brimming with warnings against compromising one's sobriety, and the medium to that end is irrelevant (substance abuse, by any other name, is still substance abuse).

"Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long at the wine, those who go in search of mixed wine. Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly; at the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper. Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart will utter perverse things. Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying: 'They have struck me, but I was not hurt; they have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?'" Proverbs 23:29-35

The error (heir) apparent follows: the social spectacle, the physical fails, the psychological sorrow and, finally, a deadly dependance that leads to a premature death. Substances taken in excess of any possible positive potential won't remedy any ailment of life but, instead, exacerbates these mindless indulgences, accelerating the damage done, shoving one into a spinning vortex of addictive destruction.

The pandemic of pleasure running rampant in our society indicates an out-of-control, instant gratification mentality that has numbed the minds of those willing to ignore consequences. When feeling good right now is your ultimate goal, you're already dead; you just don't know it yet.

Here is the truth: the life that Jesus offers is not easy, it doesn't happen overnight and there is no artificial anesthesia for the growing pains one must endure. Changing your life will never be easy and it just gets harder the deeper you immerse yourself in the "that's-just-who-I-am" error. Paul has the fix.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Romans 12:1-2

There's no comfort in numb.

## **JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!**

**SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Class • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship**

**WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130**